

Re point V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP-A-0 982 748 (ABB HOCHSPANNUNGSTECHNIK AG; ABB SCHWEIZ AG) 1 March 2000 (2000-03-01)
D2: DE 42 30 060 A1 (SIEMENS AG, 80333 MUNICH, DE) 10 March 1994 (1994-03-10)
D3: US-A-2 504 906 (TREMBLAY BERNARD G) 18 April 1950 (1950-04-18)

- 1). The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be considered inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):
document D1 discloses a switching device (switching arrangement) having a first and a second arcing contact piece (11, 14), which lie axially opposite one another, and a first and a second rated current contact piece (6, 8), which are arranged coaxially with respect to the arcing contacting pieces (11, 14), at least one of the rated current contact pieces (6 or 8) having a hollow-cylindrical basic body, which is covered at the front by an arc-resistant material (36 or 37) at its end facing a switching path of the switching device, the arc-resistant material (36 or 37) having a **plasma-sprayed coating**.
The subject matter of claim 1 differs from document D1 by the fact that the arc-resistant material has an **electroplating**.
Document D2 or D3 describes the same advantages as the present application (D2, see column 1, line 27 and claim 1; D3, see column 4, lines 58-70) as regards the feature of the electroplating. A person skilled in the art would therefore consider the inclusion of this feature in the switching device described in D1 as a routine measure for solving the problem of interest.
- 2). Dependent claims 2-9 do not appear to contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which claims 2-9 refer back, could lead to a subject matter involving an inventive step. The features of the claims are only one of several obvious possibilities, from which a person skilled in the art would choose according to the circumstances in order to solve the problem of interest, without thereby being inventive.